

Rights of Way of the Town of Rockport

Minutes of the Meeting of April 27, 2015

Approved

Rockport Town Hall

The meeting called to order at 7:00 PM, Tom Kerans presiding.

Members Present:

Tom Kerans, Marcia Siegel, Mary Devaney, Bill Mueller, Jane Moginot,
Jill Solomon

Members Absent: Phil Morrow

Attendees: Ted Tarr, Phyllis Krenn, Martha Lawrenz, 5 Hayfield Lane, and Tom Mikus, 73 Marmion Way, Joy Purdin 7 Seaview Street and Christine Lovegren, 5 Seaview Street

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of 3-23-2014 were approved.

ROW Town Website

Tom Mikus, who has offered to update our website, spoke with the town administrator and IT. The situation is that we cannot do anything with our website until there is approval for a new set up of the entire town website. Once that approval is granted, an outside contractor will redo the entire site. When that work is completed, Tom will work with Bill to make our information more accessible. No time frame was given.

Continuation of discussion of the Land Use Seminar.

Bill and Tom met with Linda Sanders regarding questions ROW had submitted for the Seminar. Many of them were not addressed and we would like the attorney to give us specific answers. Linda's response was that to save money, she would like us to compile what we think are the answers, then submit it to the attorney for review.

Tom will send out the list of questions. He requested that we each give our own answers and forward them to Marcia by May 15, 2015. Marcia will compile the responses.

Earth Day Recap

The ROW Earth Day event was held Saturday, April 25, and was considered a smashing success. Over 50 volunteers turned out to help us clean and clear trails. The work force was composed of young people, representatives of Essex County Greenbelt, and Cape Ann Trail Stewards. Trash was picked up on the Atlantic Path and Thornwood Avenue, Winter storm damage was assessed.

Essex County Greenbelt Earthday Fair

The annual ECG Earthday Fair was held Sunday, April 26. We were well represented. We had a ROW booth in the barn. As part of the entertainment, Tom sang. Bill set up an elaborate game on the lawn which dramatized the process of bee pollination. We gave away copies of the Blue Book. Marcia suggested that we "jazz up" our booth next year to make it more exciting.

Atlantic Path

The path was damaged by winter storms. Work which we had done last year needs repairs. The steps have fallen in. Stones are loose on the wall near Point de Chene. Matt

Natti, who did the work and with whom we have a credit, has been notified. We will contact Gerri Falco about using pins to hold the wall near Point de Chene.

The path at Thornwood is muddy, wet, and not passable. Although agreeing to clear his section, Mr. Cagnina did not do it. Originally the Atlantic Path was continuous with parking at both ends, at the Tool Company and Halibut Point. We want to reestablish this and will further discuss it at the next meeting. Our current strategy for restoring the path is to send the Hooper heirs an edited version of the Cegelis letter. If they are agreeable, the path will be rerouted around their property.

We need to agree on how to mark the path. Suggestions made were to use cairns with pinned markers or design signs. Painting on rocks was rejected.

Cape Hedge Labyrinth

At the end of South Street, across from Cape Hedge Beach, a piece of vacant land has been donated to the town. At one time, it contained a labyrinth marked by a ring of stones. It was accidentally demolished when the land was cleared by the DPW.

Marcia has researched recreating the labyrinth and showed us some designs. She discussed it with Geralyn DeFalco who asked for a sketch. A few stones remain on the outer edge, but it will have to be laid out again.

A motion was made and passed to follow up on how to restore the labyrinth.

Trail Stewardship using the Essex County Trail Association model

ECTA asks volunteers who regularly hike particular areas to consider themselves stewards of that particular area. They do minimal clearing and clipping. They act as eyes and ears and notify ECTA when trees are down and major work is needed.

It was commented that ROW Captains were used in this way at one time.

Mary will get further information from Carol Lloyd of ECTA and report at next meeting.

Benches

Lumber, Middle, and White Wharfs

A field trip is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2015 at 4:00 PM in front of the Fish Shack. Joe Parisi of DPW will meet with us. Placement of benches and signage will be discussed. We can afford to buy more than one bench.

Management Report

No expenditures have been made since the last meeting.

\$3304.00 Original Budget

\$548.00 was spent on Trail Markers

\$2756.00 is the Balance (83% left)

Other special revenue

1. Gifts-\$4303.47

T-Shirts

Tom and Bill suggested getting ROW T-shirts. After discussion a motion was passed to order T-shirts with our logos. Seaside Graphics will be contacted for options, and we will decide on colors and design at our next meeting.

Captains Reports

New Business

Right of Way on Seaview Street

Residents of Seaview Street showed us that between #3 and #5 a 4 foot Right of Way once existed and may still be active. If it is, it would allow easier access to the beach over the mountain of rocks bordering Cape Hedge Beach. A permanent walkway over the marsh exists now. It is believed by abutters that the owner of the existing walkway was ordered to remove it, and that it is there illegally. ROW is interested in the matter but cannot pursue it unless we are presented with documentation from deeds to the properties involved. Apparently the houses on Seaview Street were built in 1976. Mention of the walkway was included someone's deed in 1947. The Seaview residents were asked to get more information and present it to the committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Devaney
Secretary

Next Meeting
Monday
May 18, 2015
7:00 PM